

PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Applicant (Agency & address - including zip) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) 4080 Lemon Street, 3rd floor Riverside, CA 92501 </div>	Proposed Date of Completion: November 1, 2013 Grant Amount Requested: \$ 410,150 If Joint Proposal, list participating entities/ contact person:														
<div style="text-align: center;"> Check one <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">City</td><td style="width: 50px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">County</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">MPO</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">COG</td><td style="text-align: center;">X</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">RTPA</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">JPA</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Joint Proposal</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	City		County		MPO		COG	X	RTPA		JPA		Joint Proposal		
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Lead Applicant's Name: Western Riverside Council of Governments

Title of Proposal (summarize the deliverable to be funded by this grant)

Western Riverside County Climate Action Plan

Applicant's Representative Authorized in Resolution

Name: Kelly A. Bennett, Esq.

Title: WRCOG Chair, Mayor City of Murrieta

Phone: (951) 461-6015

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Person with Day to Day Responsibility for Plan

(if different from Authorized Representative)

Name: Rick Bishop

Title: Executive Director

Phone: (951) 955-8303

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Check all of the following that are incorporated or applicable to the proposal:

Focus Area

Program Objectives

<input type="checkbox"/> Focus Area # 1		Applying for 20% EDC set aside
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus Area # 2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus Area # 3	X	Improve air and water quality X
Eligibility Requirements (mandatory)		Promote public health X
<input type="checkbox"/> Consistent with State Planning Priorities	X	Promote equity X
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduces GHG emissions on a permanent basis	X	Increase affordable housing X
<input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration requirement	X	Increase infill and compact development X
Priority Considerations		Revitalize urban and community centers X
<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates collaboration & community involvement	X	Protect natural resources and agricultural lands X
<input type="checkbox"/> Addresses climate change impacts	X	Reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption X
<input type="checkbox"/> Serves as best practices	X	Improve infrastructure systems X
<input type="checkbox"/> Leverages additional resources	X	Promote water conservation X
<input type="checkbox"/> Serves an economically disadvantaged community	X	Promote energy efficiency and conservation X
<input type="checkbox"/> Serves a severely disadvantaged community	X	Strengthen the economy X

I certify that the information contained in this plan application, including required attachments, is complete and accurate

Signature:

Kelly A. Bennett

8.30.2010

Applicant's Authorized Representative as shown in Resolution

Date

Print Name and Title: Kelly A. Bennett, WRCOG Chair/ Mayor of Murrieta

PROPOSAL SUMMARY: NEED FOR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND FOCUS AREA INTENT

The Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) proposes to develop an integrated Climate Action Plan (CAP) for 16 cities in western Riverside County, the County of Riverside, 2 major water districts and related partners. The general characteristics of the WRCOG subregion point to the need for the CAP.

- The subregion remains one of the fastest growing areas in California and the United States. With 1.7 million residents, forecasts project the population to be 2.0 million by 2020 and 2.5 million by 2035.
- The region's unemployment rate is currently among the state's highest, at 15.6%. Approximately 500,000 jobs exist in the subregion, with another 200,000 forecast for 2020. Even with projected job growth, the subregion remains significantly "jobs-poor"; long commutes out of the subregion to employment centers located in San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles County are a way of life for thousands of residents. Nearly 40% of those who commute for school/work commute outside the county.
- The subregion encompasses an area of 1.3 million acres, or 2,035 square miles.
- Riverside County has 509 miles of interstate and state highways. Because of the area's relatively recent growth and large geographic area, access to transit opportunities remains somewhat limited.
- The subregion experiences some of the worst air quality in the United States. The subregion's physiography (bordered by extensive mountain topography) coupled with its geographic "downwind" position from the Los Angeles/Orange County metropolitan areas causes the area to be a major collection point of air pollutants generated within and outside of the region.
- The subregion's per capita income is below the national level, and is declining more each year.
- WRCOG's 17 member jurisdictions are in different stages of their physical development. These include cities, such as Riverside, in the process of revitalizing city centers through urban infill, to newly incorporated cities, such as Wildomar and Menifee, which are completing their initial general plans.

With these characteristics, the challenge of establishing a Western Riverside County Climate Action Plan is: *How does a large, growing and changing suburban region of the Inland Empire mitigate climate change trends while rapid and constant growth is occurring, natural resources are strained, much of the workforce commutes long distances daily, public and private sector funds are depleted or significantly constrained, and the many local government units are widely diverse in experience, resources and outlook. And, how important is it for local jurisdictions to realize the many positive benefits of the development and implementation of a regional Climate Action Plan as means to address many of the growth issues they now face?*

To meet these challenges, WRCOG's members have identified a set of sustainability issues which they recognize will be best acted on at the regional level through a consensus-building framework. To set in motion more formalized discussion and subsequent development of action plans/implementation mechanisms, WRCOG has formed a number of subcommittees comprised of elected officials, city managers, county executives, and regional agency executives that are currently meeting. Building on current and past successful collaborative accomplishments, WRCOG has identified the development of a Climate Action Plan for the subregion as an **essential** effort to actively and ambitiously address the many sustainability issues that it will face as the area continues to grow at a rapid pace. Projected impacts of climate change under business as usual scenarios could significantly affect western Riverside County in its attempts to improve the quality of life for existing residents while at the same time accommodating new growth in a manner that can, collectively, reduce the region's impact on the environment and natural resources.

Simply stated, this subregion cannot continue to grow in the future in the same manner that it has in the past. Developing a Climate Action Plan through WRCOG's consensus-based approach and planning processes will help the 17 jurisdictions (and the two major water districts) seize the opportunities -- rather than bemoaning perceived constraints and barriers -- of SGC goals, AB 32, SB 375, and federal policies and regulations that have sustainability in mind. WRCOG believes that for the region to succeed economically in the future, it will have to become a leader in developing and implementing plans that promote advanced sustainability.

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

STEP 1: THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS

The WRCOG Climate Action Plan (CAP) proposal and outcomes are inherently consistent with the three Threshold Requirements as discussed below.

1.1. Consistency with the State's planning priorities:

WRCOG's Climate Action Plan (CAP) will address each of the 12 of the Strategic Growth Council's objectives for sustainable communities. This will directly align western Riverside County with the State's Planning Priorities pursuant to Government Code Section 65041.1, including:

- a. Infill development and investment in existing communities (Objectives 2.5 and 2.6).
- b. Protection of environmental/agricultural lands and natural/recreational resources (Objective 2.7)
- c. Location and resource efficient new development (Objectives 2.5 and 2.11).

1.2. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions consistent with:

- a. California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32): The CAP will develop permanent and feasible GHG emission reduction targets consistent with AB 32, based on the Existing Conditions Report, GHG Emissions Inventory, existing regional plans/commitments, and other Work Plan obligations. (See Section 2, Program Objectives.)
- b. Applicable Regional Plans: Using final CAP GHG emission targets, WRCOG and its partners will develop the Plan to recognize and compliment existing comprehensive plans and targets to address sustainability and climate change in the subregion, including: the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) to-be-developed Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) plan addressing SB 375 requirements to reduce vehicle miles travelled; SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); Riverside County's 2010 Green Action Plan and General Plan CEQA strategy; and the South Coast Air Quality Management District's AQMP.

1.3 Collaboration requirements, Focus Area 3:

WRCOG's major purpose, as articulated in its Joint Powers Agreement, is to operate in collaboration with its 19 member agencies to build consensus on matters of regional concern. (See Priorities Section 3.1.B for examples.) WRCOG's development of a CAP for the subregion work will include all members of WRCOG, and expert and interested partners, such as the University of California, Riverside Center for Suburban Sustainable Development, Southern California Edison, the Gas Company, The Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, and the County of Riverside Transportation Land Management Agency. Commitment of participation from these and other entities are provided in the Support Documentation Section.

STEP 2: PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The CAP has a number of objectives that are inter-related, in that each of these objectives affects and is affected by other objectives. The ensuing is presented in consistent format requirements. However, WRCOG's CAP will prioritize the creation of synergies among multiple objectives in order to ensure a fully-integrated and dynamic plan.

2.1 Improve Air and Water Quality

Air Quality

Objective: Develop subregional public policies and programs that result in the reduction of GHG emissions in accordance with State and SCAG standards.

Strategies: Reduce GHG per capita, by identifying and implementing policies, programs and actions that will reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT), the metric for determining SB 375 compliance. Examples include:

- Land use planning, zoning, and general plan amendments that identify activity centers proximate to existing and future housing and public transportation opportunities. This will include secondary actions that will take form as conditions of approval that, collectively, create more walkable and pedestrian-friendly environments in such activity centers.
- Implementation of Transportation Systems Management (TSM) and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that can effectively reduce VMT. These include, for example, parking strategies, compressed work schedules and telecommuting, Park & Ride and transit feeders, provision of employer financial incentives, implementation of aggressive employer-based rideshare programs, real-time information provided by transit providers and other related transit stop amenity improvements, and regional congestion pricing.
- Implementation of processes and mechanisms for considering and incorporating alternative forms of transportation into future development. For example, this could include closer coordination with schools to establish/improve safe routes to schools, improving sidewalk networks, linkages and design, development of localized neighborhood electric vehicle routes and related infrastructure, and examining alternative fuel infrastructure availability and needs.
- Establishment of local jurisdictions as leaders by example, through implementation of policies incorporating alternative forms of transportation and fuels usage into procurement practices, application of strict indoor and outdoor water conservation measures, and retrofitting municipally-owned facilities with energy efficient upgrades.
- Creation of policies and identification of incentives to promote greater density development near transit/public transportation lines and identified activity centers.
- Prioritization of transportation investments that provide access to identified activity centers, lessen congestion, and minimize emissions.
- Identification of opportunities to establish regional and/or local buyer/supplier relationships to reduce goods transport from outside of the subregion, reduce emissions, and improve the subregion's sustainability. For example, biosolids from water treatment facilities are currently trucked to Arizona where they are sold. The CAP will identify local applications for these biosolids, thus eliminating or reducing the trips and associated GHGs related to transport to Arizona. Another example would be to develop mechanisms encouraging the use of community supported agriculture, again reducing the amount of produce transported from out of area.

Indicator(s): Reduce GHG emissions per capita by 8% or the amount determined by CARB and assigned to the SCAG region pursuant to SB 375.

Consistency with State Implementation Plan (SIP): These strategies will identify and target specific reductions in GHGs from tailpipe emissions and move the subregion toward attainment of national ambient air quality standards (NAAQs) as outlined in the SIP for the South Coast Air Basin. They will also address and comply with AB 32 and SB 375 plans and requirements to the extent they remain in place (recognizing Proposition 23 – suspension of AB 32 -to be considered by California voters in November).

Water Quality

Objective: Develop a comprehensive Medical Waste Disposal Plan to reduce/eliminate medical waste and constituents of emerging concern (CECs) from the water stream consistent with regional water quality control board standards and information.

Strategies: WRCOG will collaborate with its two regional water district members (Eastern and Western Municipal Water Districts) and the Water Alliance to track research and standards being developed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to determine what local policies and programs can reduce the presence of medical waste in the water and waste water systems.

Indicator(s): Inclusion of information regarding contributing sources of medical waste to the water stream, with quantification where possible. The Plan will include a metric of tiered milestones for reducing such waste during 1, 3, 5 and 10 year timeframes, and also include provisions to frontload what are identified as longer-term strategies in an accelerated fashion in instances where short-term benchmarks are not achieved..

Consistency with Integrated Regional Water Management Plan: The objective to reduce CECs in the water stream directly correlates with the Santa Ana Watershed Protection Agency's (SAWPA) IRWMP water quality initiative and subsequent participation in the "No Drugs Down the Drain" Program.

2.2 Promote Public Health

Objective: Develop a regional Public Health Plan that articulates policies and programs to increase the health of the region's population by reducing air emissions, improving and increasing food security, improving water quality, and increasing accessibility to facilities for physical activity. This Plan will be in the form of a Public Health element for inclusion in local general plans, allowing for policy linkages to occur with other general plan policies, including ones associated with land use, transportation, air quality, and energy.

Indicator(s): Reduce incidences of adults and children experiencing asthma and related symptoms associated with poor air quality, per CDC annualized monthly survey results, by 5% by 2020. Reduce the percent of overweight/obese population and increase the subregion's population that participates in physical activity by 5 percent by 2020, per CDC survey results, through the implementation of urban form policies providing opportunities for increased pedestrian mobility and lessen dependence on the automobile.

Addressing Definition of a Healthy Community: By applying broad strategies that seek to improve economic, environmental, and social sustainability throughout the subregion, the public health objective adequately fosters what the Department of Public Health defines as a "healthy community."

Identification of public health co-benefits, potential adverse health consequences: WRCOG will reference and incorporate recent and related work that supports the policies and outcomes of its Public Health Plan. This will include, for example, SCAQMD's most recent MATEs study, and other studies that establish the role of and need for local governments to identify and seize opportunities to implement land use practices that can concurrently work to improve overall public health. No potential adverse health consequences are anticipated from the development of this Public Health document. However, if they are identified, WRCOG intends to utilize its established Healthcare Subcommittee, bolstered by staff expertise from partner and interested agencies such as the County Public Health Department, to develop and recommend approaches that can mitigate or eliminate potential conflicts and/or consequences.

Collaboration with Local Health Department: The Director of the Riverside County Health Department (Public Health Officer) or his designee will be an expert participant in work of the Climate Action Plan Subcommittee and will be asked to provide detailed review and comment of the products developed by the Subcommittee and this Public Health Plan. WRCOG intends to circulate the draft Plan for review to other identified entities (such as the American Lung Association) and individuals within and outside of the region that are considered prominent leaders and advocates of healthy cities collaboratives and initiatives

2.3 Promote Equity

Objective: Develop policies that establish improved access for all Western Riverside County residents to adequate and diverse housing, schools, open space, healthy environments, services, public transportation and other mobility options, regardless of income or location.

Strategies: WRCOG will develop a GIS-based compilation of information regarding housing, schools and performance, open space and public transportation availability for purposes of this analysis. WRCOG will undertake a comprehensive review of the subregion's housing stock, and income levels to assess the extent to which housing is being provided to various income categories (using HCD income category definitions). WRCOG will compile information on school locations, enrollment, programs, test scores and graduation rates (for high school) and compare these data to housing indicators to identify any patterns of inequity. WRCOG will map the subregion's developed and undeveloped open space areas and developed local park

lands and identify areas where populations may be underserved. WRCOG will compile information from the subregion's Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) related to existing and future planned acquisition of sensitive habitat open space. These data will be overlaid using GIS with information public transit routes, stops and stations. These, and any additional data identified as the work progresses will be mapped, allowing for graphic / tabular display and used to identify areas where equities exist.

Indicator(s): WRCOG will use existing indicators that are embedded in state law (such as HCD income categories for housing), local general plan policies, and state and, if appropriate, national policies / benchmarks utilized to assess and address issues of equity regarding the areas being examined.

How Disadvantaged Communities Engage in Process: WRCOG will convene a committee of stakeholders comprised of individuals and entities representing disadvantaged communities. WRCOG has a strong history of positive outreach to local communities, and will work through media, churches, rotaries, chambers, local jurisdictions, schools, and other organizations and entities to identify a database of disadvantaged communities and individuals who might be interested in participating in this effort.

2.4 Increase Housing Affordability

Objective: Develop policies that can increase housing affordability with improved access to public transportation, jobs, services and activity centers.

Strategies: Implementation mechanisms including zoning and general plan provisions for jurisdictions to increase the diversity of housing options and affordability in order to serve future population growth. WRCOG will perform a review of existing local jurisdictional general plans and policies pertaining to housing affordability. WRCOG will examine demographic trends and socioeconomic data that might serve to inform and influence local jurisdiction policies, zoning and general plan land use provisions and decisions that will stimulate the development of a more diverse housing stock to serve the subregion's future population.

Indicator(s): Actual compliance with RHNA will be one measuring tool utilized, although WRCOG also envisions the quantification of policies regarding development of its template Energy Element (discussed under 2.11 below) as being related to improving the affordability of housing, and cost savings from efforts discussed in Sections 2.5, 2.8 and 2.11.

Consistency with RHNA requirements: An examination of local jurisdiction incorporation of RHNA into certified housing elements will be undertaken, with analysis that demonstrates how the programs and actions in this Section will improve housing affordability. WRCOG's focus to increase the mix of housing types and affordability of housing in the subregion is in alignment with key RHNA objectives. WRCOG will use outcomes from its recently-completed Interregional Partnership effort with the San Diego Association of Governments. This effort identified strategies for improving the interregional jobs and housing balance. These strategies will promote policy objectives and land/transportation development actions to increase housing affordability for ALL income levels as required by RHNA. Actions in this CAP, specifically in Sections 2.8, 2.10 and 2.11, will result in reducing housing costs through increased utility savings.

2.5 Promote Infill and Compact Development

Objective: Develop policies, incentives and performance standards that direct development to infill sites proximate to existing and planned transit, and encourage compact development serving population segments that might prefer housing near public transportation, jobs, services and activity centers. Encourage compact greenfield development in the subregion's emerging and "edge" jurisdictions.

Strategies: This effort will occur in concert with efforts undertaken in association with Sections 2.1, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8 and 2.11. Policies, incentives, and standards contained in the objective will be achieved through work completed in Task 2.5 above in the identification of the region's changing demographics and housing preferences. This strategy will be utilized to educate jurisdictions on the importance of planning for a future, rather than existing population, and provide the information metric needed to set this action plan in motion.

Indicator(s): Outcomes will be measured by tracking jurisdiction revisions to general plan policies, programs, and zoning documents that rezone/replan areas to increase infill opportunities (in established city centers) and more compact development (in both established and newly-developing jurisdictions..

2.6 Revitalize Urban and Community Centers

Objective: Develop policies encouraging reinvestment / redevelopment of aging community centers and underutilized urban areas to coincide with changes in infill development and other CAP objectives.

Strategies: WRCOG will utilize many of the strategies discussed in 2.5 to accomplish this objective. Of the subregion's 17 jurisdictions, only a few contain established, aging community centers and/or significant older, underutilized urban areas. WRCOG will work with these jurisdictions to assess and evaluate programs in place, and convene a working group comprised of these jurisdictions to share information, programs, strategies, and intended outcomes. WRCOG will work with development community and financing institutions to identify opportunities for reinvestment and barriers that preclude focused application of efforts in this regard. Incentives that will be examined include fee reductions and permit streamlining.

Indicator(s): As described in Task 2.5 above, outcomes will be measured by tracking local jurisdiction revisions to general plan policies, programs, and zoning documents targeting underutilized parcels as "infill optimal" sites. Incentives will be developed to improve opportunities for revitalization of sites.

2.7 Protect Natural Resources and Agricultural Land

Objective: Promote implementation of local sustainable agriculture practices to reduce carbon emissions associated with food transport. Seek funding to implement approved regional habitat conservation plans.

Strategies: Western Riverside County's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) calls for the acquisition of 150,000 acres of sensitive habitat during the next several decades. WRCOG will work with the agency charged with implementing this plan to revise the nexus study utilized to assess fees on new development for project mitigation. Current fees are less than they could be, and funding for the purchase of habitat lands is critically low. As discussed in Section 2.1, WRCOG will undertake an effort to promote the conservation of proximate agricultural lands and increased use of local "farm to market" produce in to minimize air emissions (and costs) associated with out of region transport of agricultural products.

Indicator(s): Adoption of a revised nexus study (consistent with State law fee act provisions) to assess fees on new development for purchase of habitat lands in the subregion and subsequent monitoring and reporting of lands purchased. Implementation of "farm to market" campaigns, with tally of "pledges" to participate by local jurisdictions, merchants, restaurants and grocery stores.

Consistency with State Plans: The species and habitats protected by the MSCHP are consistent with the California Wildlife Action Plan. The MSHCP is consistent with California's Natural Community Conservation Plan; and the proposed CAP will be consistent in its efforts to ensure western Riverside County's supply of mineral resources is not depleted according to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act.

2.8 Reduce Automobile Usage and Fuel Consumption

Objective: Reduce automobile usage, measured by VMT reductions, and fuel consumption in the subregion consistent with California Transportation Plan objectives, AB 32 and SB 375.

Strategies: Strategies utilized to accomplish this goal are fully described in Sections 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, and to some extent 2.7 (in that the increased acquisition of open space will serve to constrict available lands for development and thus, by default, lend to more compact land use patterns)

Indicators: Each metric identified / discussed in Sections 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 will be used to measure automobile use and fuel consumption. Regional trip origin and destination data will be used.

Consistency with California Transportation Plan: All CTP policies and implementing actions, along with those associated with SB 375 and applicable AB 32 requirements that pertain to this subject will be identified and addressed to ensure that policies identified through WRCOG's CAP are in all forms consistent with the CTP. For example, strategies to reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption will be immediately followed

by increases in the efficiency of the transportation network, decreases in GHG emissions from single passenger vehicles and light trucks, aligning this objective with the CTP.

2.9 Improve Infrastructure Systems

Objective: Develop policies and identify opportunities to improve regional infrastructure systems to more efficiently use/transmit energy, reduce air emissions, serve renewable energy sources, expand use of recycled water, and more effectively use available resources.

Strategies: WRCOG will combine the work of two of its subcommittees (Energy and Economic Development) to provide an informational basis and educational platform focused on the premise that regional infrastructure and energy generation and transmission infrastructure is a vital component to consider as part of a regional sustainability and economic development strategy. This effort will stress the need for the subregion to commit to programs that develop regional infrastructure with sustainability in mind. Work from the two aforementioned subcommittees, and outcomes developed through ALL of the previously-discussed tasks will be used to develop a regionally sustainable infrastructure strategy.

Indicator(s): Incorporation of policies generated through this CAP by local jurisdictions and agencies that commit to implementation of sustainable infrastructure and related delivery systems.

2.10 Promote Water Conservation

Objective: Develop policies, facilities and programs that reduce water usage, consistent with state plans.

Strategies: Increase use of reclaimed water; develop standards for requiring installation of purple pipe in development projects; continue to implement WRCOG's model landscaping water use ordinance developed pursuant to AB 1881, with standards for landscaping design, plantings, irrigation infrastructure. Work with WRCOG's water district member agencies to identify additional efforts, including public outreach campaigns that can be carried out throughout Western Riverside County.

Indicator(s): Reduce per capita urban water usage by 20 percent by 2020, consistent with state plan. These strategies and policy objectives place the subregion on track to achieve its portion of the State's "20 by 2020" goals and may serve as best practice strategies for other regions and agencies to utilize.

Consistency with Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP): Conservation achievements through water use efficient landscape practices identified and implemented in this objective are/will be consistent with the initiatives identified in the IRWMP developed by the Santa Ana Watershed Protection Authority (SAWPA), the Agency also reference in Section 2.1 of this proposal regarding its role in the region's "No Drugs Down the Drain" Program.

2.11 Promote Energy Efficiency and Conservation

Objective: Establish and implement policies to reduce energy usage in existing and new residential and commercial buildings, enhance renewable energy options, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Work with jurisdictions in Western Riverside County to retrofit existing municipally-owned facilities with energy efficient upgrades. In concert with local jurisdictions and with Southern California Edison, develop and implement public outreach campaign focused on energy efficiency.

Strategies: WRCOG will implement a regional energy efficiency program on behalf of participating jurisdictions that provides funds to residential and business property owners to be used to improve properties with energy efficient upgrades. AB 811 is the enabling legislation for this program; pending resolution of a current industry letter issued by Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae that has interrupted implementation of this program by WRCOG and others through out the nation, WRCOG will begin implementation of what will be one of the largest programs of its kind in California. WRCOG's program goal is to retrofit at least 10 percent of the region's older (pre 2000) properties with energy efficient upgrades. WRCOG is commencing implementation of a program to work with local jurisdictions to "lead by example" by retrofitting existing municipally-owned facilities with energy efficient improvements. A energy efficiency public information campaign targeting Western Riverside County residents will be implemented. WRCOG is in the very early

stages of discussing the potential joint creation –with area utility providers- of a subregional “Sustainability Center” that would provide “one-stop” learning and information exchange for the public.

Indicators: Progress towards the implementation of WRCOG’s regional AB 811 program with tracking of the number of properties participating in the program and data on energy savings. Implementation by local jurisdictions of the WRCOG/SCE Program to retrofit municipal facilities. Implementation of the WRCOG/SCE public information program.

2.12 Strengthen the Economy

Objective: Establish a sustainable regional economic development plan that promotes the advancement of higher education, attracts and enhances existing quality industries, interacts with other CAP policies and programs, such as ‘smart’ land use and zoning, and positions the region as a leader in green jobs and technology advancement.

Strategies: The development of the CAP envisioned in this proposal will be the absolute cornerstone of a sustainable regional economic development plan to guide the subregion’s future growth. Foremost in the development of the economic development plan will be the integration of EACH ONE of the objectives identified by the Strategic Growth Council for sustainable communities. WRCOG’s objective is that this CAP will be utilized to guide sustainable planning and sustainable economic development practices, directions and decisions for the long-term.

Indicators: Implementation of the CAP that will be benchmarked on an annual basis.

STEP 3: PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. Ongoing collaboration

3.1. A. Tasks undertaken by all entities: For years WRCOG has successfully partnered with state, regional and local entities and other public and private stakeholders on a wide variety of subregional projects. These include diverse topic areas including open space preservation, transportation, energy, growth, and economy. Utilizing this collaborative experience and expertise, WRCOG will develop a plan that is transparent, thoroughly vetted, and includes input from numerous partners, stakeholders, and members of the general public. Specific prior activities and reports developed by WRCOG and all/ some of the partners include:

- WRCOG Good Neighbor Guidelines for Citing New and/or Modified Warehouse Distribution;
- WRCOG Non-motorized Vehicle Route Planning for Western Riverside County;
- Locally Developed Model Water Efficiency Landscaping Ordinance for Western Riverside County;
- WRCOG Transit Oriented Development Study;
- WRCOG/ SANDAG Interregional Partnership Cluster Study;
- WRCOG/ SANDAG Interregional Partnership Recommendations Report;
- Western Riverside County Indicators Report;
- WRCOG Infill Analysis Report;
- WRCOG Bus Rapid Transit Station Area Planning Study;
- Riverside County Blueprint Plan;
- Western Riverside County Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan;
- WRCOG Select Jurisdiction AB 939 Reports on Waste Diversion Activities;
- WRCOG Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study
- WRCOG 4-City Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Study
- WRCOG Smart Growth Concept Map;
- Advancing Goods Movement, Projects, Priorities and Actions;
- Western Riverside County Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee 10 Year Strategic Plan;
- WRCOG Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Program Guidelines;
- Western Riverside County Subregional Growth Forecast;

- Riverside County Red Team Report on Stimulating the Local Economy; and
- Riverside County Quarterly Economic Development Report.
- Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee Program for Western Riverside County
- Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for Western Riverside County

3.1.B. How other entities will be engaged in the development and/or implementation: WRCOG's existing committee structure will be utilized in the development of the Plan. WRCOG's standing committees includes an Executive Committee, comprised of local city, County and water district elected officials from all WRCOG member agencies; a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of city managers and water district general managers; a Planning Director's Technical Committee, and a Public Works Director's Technical Committee. The Technical Committees provide assistance to the Executive Committees and review and provide recommendations on issues of subregional importance to the Executive Committee. All meetings of the previously identified committees are open to the public and the agendas are posted for a minimum of seven days prior to the meeting date. All CAP products will be reviewed, approved and/or adopted by the full WRCOG committee structure.

The WRCOG Executive Committee has established Ad Hoc subcommittees to address 8 areas of concern (listed below). Each subcommittee is comprised of 4 elected officials and the corresponding city manager or the County/ water district equivalent. Formed subcommittees are for: Leadership, Economic Development, Education, Energy and Environment, Healthcare, Legislation and Policy, Transportation, Water and Wastewater. Policy discussions for CAP priority areas will be addressed in the subcommittees. Experts in each of the 8 areas of concern will provide assistance to the subcommittees.

Stakeholders in each of the CAP's 12 priority areas will be convened to provide targeted input on the Plan.. The Stakeholders will include the collaborative partners listed and additional representatives from each category. The draft objectives identified by the stakeholders will be presented to the public and vetted through a series of 3 public workshops (Task 9) designed to focus on the development of core strategies that will address specific methods for sustainability in Western Riverside County.

3.1.C. Promotion and sharing of information, tools or processes: Please refer to Item 3.2.B below for discussion on the how WRCOG will promote and share the Proposal information, tools and processes.

3.2. Strategies or outcomes that can serve as best practices (BPS).

3.2.A. Tools or processes that could be easily accessed and used by others. The WRCOG Plan will examine the 12 priority areas within and among 17 jurisdictions of different geographic size, population, levels / stages, and sophistication regarding implementation of various sustainability practices, to identify consistencies that can be incorporated into the subregional climate action plan - recognizing that the broader plan can be tailored to address the specific needs of the individual jurisdiction. The ambitious nature of the plan will establish recommendations and strategies that can easily be replicated elsewhere. The collaborative process is described within the Work Plan, specifically under Tasks 7 and 9, Outreach and Public Outreach also serve as a best practices model for development of a Plan with continued and open dialogue among elected officials, stakeholders, and members of the public.

3.2.B. Promotion and sharing the Proposal's information, tools or processes: All tools, processes, reports, presentations, models and research will be made available to others through the WRCOG website. Availability of Plan materials and background data will be promoted through a variety of sources including; monthly electronic newsletters (WRCOG E-Communicator and E-TUMF); regularly scheduled standard mail newsletters (Western Riverside County Clean Cities Air Quality Quarterly Newsletters); WRCOG Facebook

postings; partner websites and newsletters; and announcements during partner, stakeholder and public outreach meetings, and perhaps through a to-be-developed WRCOG Youtube channel.

3.3. Proposal Leverage

The Plan will make use of leveraging to enhance the Plan. Please refer to the Budget (Item 4.a.) for specific expected amounts to be committed. Leverage includes:

- WRCOG, Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore Joint Jefferson Avenue Corridor Study - Commencing November 2010. Local matching funds and Caltrans Community Based Transportation Planning Funds will be available to leverage towards Tasks 3,6, 7 and 9 (See Budget Form) to further the development of land use policies that would contribute to increasing infill, revitalizing community centers, and enhance existing infrastructure to maximize the corridor from a land use and transportation perspective. Leveraging will come from a combination of in-kind services, labor, technical expertise and cash.
- Western Riverside Energy Leadership Partnership (WRELP) - WRELP is a Partnership program with Southern California Edison to develop strategies for reducing energy consumption, increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable energy usage and improve air quality in Western Riverside County. The Partnership efforts for energy efficiency and conservation strategies commence January 2011 and coincide with efforts to establish a broader stakeholder effort (Task 7, Budget Form). Leveraging will be technical expertise, cash, and other in-kind efforts.
- Riverside County General Plan/ CEQA Update/ Sustainability Plan Development - The County of Riverside is preparing to enter into the public outreach component of their General Plan Update. Additionally, the County will be undertaking the development of a sustainability plan for the unincorporated county. This effort will coincide with the efforts identified within this Plan and will be leveraged towards Tasks 4, 6, 8, and 12 identified in the Budget Form. Leveraging will be technical expertise and existing conditions assistance.
- WRCOG Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Financing Program - This Program will assist Western Riverside County residents with financing energy efficiency and water conservation improvements on existing homes and businesses. An extensive public outreach campaign will begin in the Spring 2011. Leveraging from the Program will go towards Tasks 6 and 7 of the Plan. Refer to the Budget Form for additional information. Leveraging will be staff time, and technical expertise.
- Potential additional funding to be provided by SCAG (funding applications are to be submitted in October 2011).

3.4. Proposal addresses climate change impacts. Climate change has known impacts to humans, resource availability and production, transportation, air and water quality, and water availability. As temperatures rise due to the impacts of climate change, human health problems will become more frequent, coastal and watershed adjacent communities where many resources are mined and harvested will experience rising sea levels causing transport and production issues, water availability will become more limited, and agriculture resources could experience a myriad of challenges, all of which will equate into significant economic challenges for many sectors. The following addresses climate change impacts on the broader sectors and then outlines how the Plan proposes to improve adaptation to these impacts.

3.4.A. Identify the potential climate change impacts on the population, or human or natural areas, or systems most vulnerable to those impacts within the planning area.

Population Challenges: One of the most widely identified impacts of climate change is an increase in global temperature. In a study on nine California counties from May through September of 1999–2003, researchers found that increases in temperature cause measurable increases in cardiovascular deaths (Basu and Ostro, 2008). Climate change will continue to increase the number of cardiovascular deaths as well as the prevalence of asthma due to increased particulates from meteorological factors which can increase the occurrence of

smog sieges. Southern California's largest air basin; South Coast Basin, which encompasses Western Riverside County, has the worst ozone levels in the nation, measures third dirtiest in terms of year-round particulate pollution, and experiences the fourth worst in short-term pollution (American Lung Association, 2010)..

Low income families that currently spend on average as much as 25% of their entire income on food, electricity, and water will be severely impacted by the effects of climate change. Climate change will decrease the availability and access to these and other necessities and increases the prevalence of negative health impacts to this sector. For example, five of the smoggiest cities in California also have the highest densities of minorities and low-income residents. These communities are projected to suffer from the largest increase in smog associated with climate change (The Climate Gap, By Rachel Morello-Frosch, Manuel Pastor, & Jim Sadd, USC, 2009). Climate change will also dramatically reduce or shift job opportunities in sectors such as agriculture and tourism (significant job sectors within Riverside County) which predominately employ low-income people and will further cause strain on this population.

Water, Agricultural and Natural Resources Impacts: A 2010 study by the Natural Resources Defense Council states nearly one in three counties will encounter a "high" or "extremely high risk" of water shortage by 2050 (Tetra Tech, inc., 2010). Riverside County has been identified as a jurisdiction with an "extremely high" risk of water shortage due to the existing arid nature of the region. Directly related to the availability of water is the impact that climate change will have on agriculture and farming. Shifts in weather patterns will critically alter grow seasons, change crop yields, and present an unpredictable and costly situation for farmers further providing a challenge to the increased food and water needs of a growing population.

Energy and Fuel Production Impacts: Climate change and subsequent increases in extreme temperatures will require additional heating and cooling costs. Overstrain on traditional energy resources will make existing resources in limited supply and extremely costly to use. Unless energy is conserved and alternative sources are incorporated, energy availability will continue to divide segments of the society and put those in need at further risk. Domestic fuel production and transport will further prove to be a challenge with production areas, such as the Gulf Coast, experiencing continued hardships with rising sea levels and uncertain weather patterns interrupting production and distribution. Foreign oil will decrease in availability and rates will continue to escalate making foreign oil an unsustainable commodity.

3.4.B. How does the proposal improve adaptation to the impacts for these populations, human or natural areas, or systems? The effects of climate change will cumulatively affect all sectors and a combined approach is required to alleviate these challenges. How and where the current and future residents are housed and providing job opportunities within close proximity will be critical to addressing climate change. Examining housing availability for all sectors, along with access, location, energy usage and efficiency will be key to reducing reliance on scarce natural resources. Through implementation of the Plan, policies will be developed that will encourage a shift in lifestyle choices. Residents will have more options to live in housing located near job centers and transit, reducing the need for single passenger automobile usage. Mass transit opportunities exist for Western Riverside County, however current opportunities are limited as operational investments in bus transit have been reduced in recent years and light rail opportunities for additional stops or increases in frequency are limited. Until transit opportunities can be expanded, WRCOG's proposal will examine Traffic System Management (TSM) and Traffic Demand Management (TDM) tools to reduce automobile dependence compared to business-as-usual. Additionally, the Climate Action Plan will encourage the reduced reliance on fossil fuels consumption by incentivizing the more prevalent use of alternative fuel and electric vehicles.

Where available, infill development strategies will be incorporated to revitalize urban centers and encourage the preservation of open space.. Reinvigorating underused centers and increasing intensity in the urban core to encourage more walkable neighborhoods and promote the creation and extension of non-motorized trails

and pathways designed to reduce automobile usage and promote walking. Urban greening activities and the promotion of alternative greening techniques such as rooftop gardens will be examined and implemented to reduce the 'heat island effect' within the urban downtowns.

The Western Riverside County Climate Action Plan will build-off of existing comprehensive water conservation and reuse programs and further establish a per capita water reduction strategy for urban water use of 20% reduction by 2020 which is also in compliance with State regulations. Additional measures will be established within this Plan creation aimed at moving beyond this initial target. Reclaimed water usage, which is currently a resource used for landscaping and in the development of electricity within Western Riverside County, will be expanded and more prevalently used. Alternative water sources, such as reclaimed water will be a key component in Western Riverside County's ability to stave-off the "extremely high risk" of impending water shortage. In addition to water reuse activities keeping existing water sources clean and free of contaminants will be vital to maintaining water availability in Western Riverside County. The CAP will call for the creation and implementation of a plan to reduce the presence of Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC's) such as medicinal waste within the water stream through the development of a plan to return unused portions of prescription pharmaceuticals. Further reducing the reliance on the potable water sources will be the incorporation of sustainable farming practices that promote techniques designed to reduce water reliance and promote development of local markets to reduce transport times which will establish reliable, local markets which gives residents high quality, healthy food choices.

Collectively the previously identified components of the Plan will significantly reduce GHG emissions. The addition of the energy component of the Plan will also have GHG emission reduction benefits, as energy is often recognized as the second highest sector in the release of GHG emissions (next to transportation). This Plan will promote the retrofitting of existing homes and businesses with energy efficiency and energy reducing tools and technologies. Policies and directives will also be established to increase the availability of alternative energy sources. Consideration and incentives will be established to aid disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities with opportunities to access energy efficiency and renewable energy alternatives.

Incorporation of the Plan will lead to the subregion becoming environmentally and economically sustainable as local jobs in the 'green' sectors will be a driving force behind the success of the plan. If left to business-as-usual, Western Riverside County will continue to be in a state of decline, however if provided with the opportunities to create jobs in the energy, agriculture, housing, and water conservation sectors the subregion will thrive. Partnering with the local higher education sectors, such as University California Riverside will enable the creation and support of instructional materials aimed a further supporting these industries which will position Western Riverside County as a center for green technology.

3.5. Serves an economically disadvantaged/ severely disadvantaged community.

Within the proposed project area there exists a number of economically disadvantaged/ severely disadvantaged communities (See Item 7, Disadvantaged Community Documentation). Understanding the current conditions of these communities within the context of the 12 priority topics will be done during the Existing Conditions Research (Task 3). These communities will benefit from policy development aimed at addressing the specific needs associated with providing fair and equitable access to housing, transportation, schools, quality fresh foods and other necessities. The Fair Housing Council of Riverside County; a collaborator on the Plan (see Item 6, Collaboration Letters), will be part of the Outreach effort (Task 7), additional stakeholders representing the economically disadvantaged/ severely disadvantaged communities will be sought out as part of the Public Outreach Workshops (Task 9) to engage in the development of the Plan. Spanish language translators will be available during these Workshops to address potential language barriers. See refer to section 2.3 Promote Equity for more information on efforts to engage these communities in Plan development.

STEP 4: ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

4.1 WRCOG Experience: WRCOG has significant prior experience in meeting challenges such as the proposed Western Riverside County Climate Action Plan. See section 3.1 for a listing of recent collaborative efforts. As a multi-jurisdictional, multi-focus agency, WRCOG has the technical expertise required to execute this Proposal. In areas that will benefit from the additional efforts of a consultant whose primary focus encompasses a topic area, WRCOG will develop and distribute a request for proposal (RFP). WRCOG's Executive staff (executive director, deputy director, program managers) have ample experience at managing and directing consultant staff.

4.2 Active Partners: WRCOG will work collaboratively with a number of partners that will assist with the development of the Proposal (see section 1.3, Collaboration Requirements and see Support Documentation Collaboration Letters) to provide technical assistance. WRCOG is proposing to use its existing committee structure (see section 3.1.b, Entities engaged in development and/or implementation) with the inclusion of additional collaborators to develop a comprehensive plan that will address the 12 priority categories. Partners will assist WRCOG with developing the following "High Level Activities/ Milestones": Project Start-up (Task 2), Existing Conditions Report (Task 3), GHG Inventory (Task 4), Recommended Targets (Task 6), Outreach (Task 7), Development of the Draft Climate Action Plan (Task 8), Public Outreach (Task 9), and Outreach, Education and Follow Through (Task 12).

4.3 Remain on schedule and within budget: WRCOG staff are held to a high level of accountability as a result of both internal accounting practices and transparency required by its committees. Staff will be required to report monthly to the WRCOG policy committees on CAP progress. WRCOG management staff also meet on a weekly basis with the Executive Director to provide updates on current plans and budgets. Should a project be subject to schedule or budgetary concerns these issues will be addressed during the weekly meetings and efforts will be put into place immediately to refocus the activities to route the project and/or budget back on course.

4.4 If Overbudget: WRCOG's vast experience at managing projects has led to skilled budgeting practices where a proposed project has never exceeded budget expectations. However, should the situation arise, WRCOG is prepared to inventory existing program and project budgets and identify available funds to cover the overbudget cost of the Proposal. Additionally, WRCOG would remain in constant contact with the SGC appointed grant manager notifying the Council of the budgetary concerns.

4.1 Work Plan Implementation: Please see Item 4.b Work Plan.